(b) if so, the names of the States and UTs;

(c) the extent of reduction for Tripura and Kerala; and

(d) the reasons for reduction?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) to (d) Allocations of food grains to States and UTs for APL category of ration card holders are made depending upon their availability in the Central Pool. Offtake of food grains under TPDS has been continuously increasing since 2004-05. However, procurement of food grains for the Central Pool declined after 2005-06. As a result, the availability of stocks in the Central Pool for allocations got reduced. In order to accommodate the TPDS requirement within the stocks available in the Central Pool, while allocations for BPL & AAY families have been maintained @ 35 kg per family per month for all States & UTs,. allocations of APL rice to States and UTs were rationalized from April 2007 based on its offtake during 2003-04, 2004-05 and 2005-06. The revised allocations were, thus, closer to the levels of actual offtake during the previous years.

2. Similarly, in view of the constraints on availability of rice in the Central Pool due to lower procurement of rice during KMS 2006-07 and KMS 2007-08 than overall demands from States/UTs, allocations for APL rice to States/UTs including Kerala for 2008-09 have been made on the basis of average of offtake level of APL rice during 2006-07 and 2007-08. However, in the case of Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim, Tripura, Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Andaman & Nicobar Islands and Lakshadweep, APL rice allocations during 2008-09 have been maintained at 2007-08 level.

3. The allocations and offtake of APL rice in Tripura and Kerala during the last six years have been as follows:

(Tons)

Year	Tripura		Kerala	
	Allocation	Offtake	Allocation	Offtake
2003-04	1,55,580	18,853	13,61,040	6,187
2004-05	1,31,292	38,889	13,61,040	91,538
2005-06	1,31,292	37,020	13,61,040	57,492
2006-07	1,49,898	95,249	13,61,040	1,80,737
2007-08	1,14,060	106,510	3,07,008	2,94,412
2008-09	1,14,060	69,780*	2,93,672	129,221*

* Figures upto October 2008.

As can been seen from the above details, offtake of APL rice in both Tripura and Kerala has been lower than allocations, even in the year 2007-08.

Amendment of PC and PNDT Act

*176. SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that sex determination tests are being conducted by doctors at several medical centres/hospitals illegally in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Pre-conception (PC) and Pre-natal Diagnostic Techniques (PNDT) Act has completely failed to check the rising cases of its violation;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether Government proposes to amend the PC and PNDT Act to make it stringent; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMDOSS): (a) to (f) Sex determination techniques have been in use in India since 1975 primarily for the determination of genetic abnormalities. However, these techniques were widely misused to determine the sex of the foetus and subsequent abortions if the foetus was found to be female.

Studies indicate that sex determination tests are conducted and female foeticide carried out surreptitiously with the active connivance of the service providers and the persons seeking such services. Unlike in other cases, both parties gain through such complicity, *i.e.* while the service seekers are able to get rid of the unwanted female foetus, the service providers benefit financially. The absence of witness to such unholy alliance or evidence thereto makes it difficult to detect violations of the Act.

With a view to overcoming such circumvention of the law, the implementing agencies, as also the NGOs and other organisations, are encouraged to employ decoy customers for trapping such unscrupulous service providers and book cases against them under the law.

Further, the Government has taken action on strengthening the Pre-Conception & Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques Act (PC & PNDT Act) as well as creating awareness on the issue through various IEC mechanisms. Some of the steps taken by the Government to improve the Child Sex Ratio in the Country are:

- Constitution of the Central Supervisory Board under the Chairmanship of Union Minister of Health & Family Welfare, whose function, *inter alia*, is to advise the Central Government on policy matters relating to use of pre-natal diagnostic techniques, sex selection techniques and against their misuse and to create public awareness against the practice of pre-conception sex selection and pre-natal determination of sex of foetus leading to female foeticide;
- Constitution of the National Inspection & Monitoring Committee (NIMC) for undertaking field visits periodically across the country.
- Constitution of the National Support & Monitoring Cell (NSMC) for effective implementation of the Act.
- The reports of NIMC and NSMC are forwarded to the concerned State/UT Governments with the request to take appropriate remedial action for plugging any shortcomings, including initiation of penal proceedings against the violators pointed out in the reports, since implementation of the Act rests with the State/UT Governments.

- Provisions have also been made for sensitising Judiciary and public prosecutors.
- Publication of Annual Reports, Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs).
- On-Line Complaint registration facility on the Ministry's Website.
- Organising sensitisation workshops/ seminars, launching of 'Save the Girl Child' campaign, seeking cooperation from the NGOs/religious leaders, etc.
- Further, under the National Rural Health Mission, Auxiliary Nursing Midwife (ANM) and Accredited Social Health Activist (ASHA) are being sensitised on the issue. Also, funds have been provided to all States/UTs under the Rural Child Health programme for implementation of the Act and related activities.
- Steps are also afoot to further strengthen the PC & PNDT Act, 1994 and the Rules framed thereunder in consultation with the legal experts and all the stake holders. It is proposed to amend the Act suitably with a view to making penalty provisions for violators of the Act more stringent, including imposition of fine up to Rs.5 lakhs and incarceration up to 1 years upon conviction, is being considered in consultation with legal experts and all the stake holders.

Smuggling of foodgrains to Bangladesh and Nepal

†*177. SHRI PRABHAT JHA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that huge quantity of wheat, rice and other foodgrains are being smuggled to Nepal and Bangladesh from the country;

(b) if so, the names of the States from where this smuggling is taking place and the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the Union Government has failed to stop smuggling inspite of having information;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the details of the steps being taken by Government to stop smuggling?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR) : (a) to (e) To prevent smuggling of foodgrains and other items from India to Nepal and Bangladesh, Deptt. of Revenue, Ministry of Finance and Border Security Forces of Ministry of Home Affairs maintain vigil at international borders and take required preventive action.

As reported by Deptt. of Revenue, Ministry of Finance, and Border Security Force (BSF) and Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB), Ministry of Home Affairs, smuggling of huge quantities of foodgrains from India is not taking place to Nepal and Bangladesh. However, instances of smuggling of small quantities of foodgrains and other food articles have been detected by these agencies. Details of seizure of such items at Indo-Nepal and Indo-Bangladesh Borders during the current year are as follows:-

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi